

Message Text

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH BEFORE PALAIS DES
CONGRES, PARIS, JANUARY 4, 1978

TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH FOLLOWS:

QTE: WHEN OUR DEMOCRACY WAS BORN, FRANCE WAS THERE.

FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE
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SHARED THE SAME IDEALS AND CULTURE.

THERE IS ONE BELIEF ABOVE ALL OTHERS THAT HAS
MADE US WHAT WE ARE. THIS IS THE BELIEF THAT THE RIGHTS
OF THE INDIVIDUAL INHERENTLY STAND HIGHER THAN THE
CLAIMS OF THE STATE. THIS IS THE MESSAGE THAT THE
AMERICAN AND FRENCH PEOPLES, EACH IN TURN, CARRIED

FORWARD TO THE WORLD TWO CENTURIES AGO. THESE ARE THE VALUES WHICH THE WORLD STILL DEPENDS UPON US TO AFFIRM.

DEMOCRACY WAS THEN A NEW AND UNTRIED CONCEPT; NOW IT IS THE STANDARD FOR OUR WESTERN CIVILIZATION. THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INSPIRED SO GREATLY BY FRENCH PHILOSOPHY, SPOKE OF THE "UNALIENABLE RIGHTS" OF PERSONS: "LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS." THESE RIGHTS WERE CONTROVERSIAL THEN; NOW THEY ARE THE MEASURE BY WHICH THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOVERNMENTS IS TESTED. DEMOCRACY IS INDEED A COMPELLING IDEA, AN IDEA SO ATTRACTIVE THAT EVEN ITS ENEMIES NOW ATTEMPT TO CLOAK REPRESSION WITH FALSE DEMOCRATIC LABELS.

BUT OUR DEMOCRATIC ORDER HAS COME UNDER CHALLENGE. THERE ARE THOSE WHO QUESTION WHETHER DEMOCRATIC VALUES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR CONTEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES. VOICES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD ASK WHETHER NOTIONS OF FREE SPEECH, PERSONAL LIBERTY, AND FREELY-CHOSEN GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE PUSHED ASIDE, IN THE STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME POVERTY. VOICES IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD ASK WHETHER DEMOCRACY EQUIPS US FOR THE FRENZIED PACE OF CHANGE IN OUR MODERN LIVES. WE HAVE HEARD WARNINGS THAT A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY CANNOT IMPOSE ON ITSELF THE RESTRAINT AND SELF-DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO COPE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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PERSISTENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE DISPARATE ELEMENTS OF OUR SOCIETIES CANNOT COHERE IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. GOVERNMENTS EVERYWHERE HAVE BEGUN TO SEEM REMOTE, IMPERSONAL, INCOMPETENT. MANY PEOPLE QUESTION WHETHER ANY GOVERNMENT CAN HEAR THEIR DISTANT AND SOLITARY VOICES.

THESE PROBLEMS ARE REAL. WE MUST ADMIT THEIR EXISTENCE. BUT WE MUST ALSO BEAR THE BURDEN THAT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IMPOSES ON THOSE WHO ARE PART OF IT. THAT IS TO PROCLAIM OUR UNSHAKEN FAITH IN THE VALUES OF OUR DEMOCRATIC NATIONS, AND OUR BELIEF THAT THOSE VALUES ARE STILL RELEVANT -- TO RICH AND POOR, IN NORTH AND SOUTH, EAST AND WEST, AS CONSTANT NOW AS THEY WERE WHEN OUR FOREBEARS SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND YOURS PROCLAIMED THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

WE DEFEND THESE VALUES BECAUSE THEY ARE RIGHT, AND BECAUSE THERE IS NO HIGHER PURPOSE FOR THE STATE THAN TO PRESERVE THESE RIGHTS FOR ITS CITIZENS. BUT WE DEFEND THEM ALSO IN THE FAITH THAT THERE IS NO

CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PRESERVING OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES
AND MEETING CHALLENGES WHICH FACE OUR MODERN SOCIETIES.

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IT IS PRECISELY WHEN DEMOCRACY IS UP AGAINST
DIFFICULT CHALLENGES THAT ITS LEADERS MUST SHOW FIRM-
NESS IN RESISTING THE TEMPTATION OF FINDING SOLUTIONS
IN NON-DEMOCRATIC FORCES.

THIS WEEK, IN INDIA, I DISCUSSED OUR BELIEF THAT
ONLY THROUGH RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES CAN
DEVELOPING NATIONS ACHIEVE THEIR FULL ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL POTENTIAL. THAT IS OUR FAITH. THE WORLD'S
LARGEST DEMOCRACY IS PROVING THAT IT IS TRUE.

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HERE WE MEET AS INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS TO AFFIRM
THAT OUR CONFIDENCE IN A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE FOR
INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES IS EQUALLY STRONG.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT MERELY RIGHT AND JUST; IT IS
ALSO THE SYSTEM THAT IS MOST CONSISTENT WITH HUMAN
NATURE. IT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ORGANIZE
SOCIETY FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

WHERE THE STATE DOMINATES EVERYTHING, ONLY THE
NARROW TALENTS OF THE BUREAUCRAT ARE FREE TO FLOWER.
BUT THE PLURALISTIC NATURE OF A DEMOCRACY ALLOWS FOR A
BROAD RANGE OF TALENTS TO SUCCEED -- IN GOVERNMENT, IN
THE ARTS, IN LABOR, IN TECHNOLOGY, IN THE SCIENCES, AND
IN THE MARKETPLACE. DEMOCRACY UNLEASHES THE INNATE
CREATIVE ENERGY IN EACH OF US.

WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER BACK THAN THE LAST THREE
DECADES TO SEE UNPARALLELED SUCCESS. THESE
YEARS HAVE BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME FOR FRANCE, FOR
WESTERN EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES, AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC
NATIONS.

FRANCE AND ITS PARTNERS IN WESTERN EUROPE ROSE
FROM THE DESTRUCTION AND TURMOIL OF WORLD WAR II TO
BUILD ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES MORE THRIVING AND
PRODUCTIVE THAN EVER BEFORE, AND TO REGAIN POSITIONS
OF WORLD LEADERSHIP.

NEVER HAVE SO MANY NEW JOBS AND SO MUCH NEW
WEALTH BEEN CREATED, OR SO MUCH CHANGE IN PEOPLE'S
LIVES BEEN MANAGED SO EFFECTIVELY -- AND YET WITH SO
MUCH FREEDOM.

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ALL OF THIS IS NO ACCIDENT. NATIONS WITH OTHER
POLITICAL SYSTEMS, IN SPITE OF THEIR GREAT HUMAN AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, HAVE NOT DONE AS WELL.

AND DEMOCRACY PROTECTS US AGAINST THE EXCESSES
OF MODERNIZATION. IT HELPS US CONSTANTLY TO REDUCE
THE RISING COMPLEXITY OF MODERN LIFE TO HUMAN TERMS.
AT A TIME WHEN THE COMPUTER MAKES TOTAL STATE CONTROL
MORE POSSIBLE THAN EVER -- PROCESSING PEOPLE

LIKE NUMBERS -- DEMOCRACY STANDS GUARD, PROTECTING
THE UNIQUENESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

THIS IS WHY THE GREAT TREND OF EMIGRATION IN THE
WORLD IS FROM THOSE STATES WHICH DENY BASIC RIGHTS TO
THEIR PEOPLE, AND TOWARD THE FREE NATIONS OF THE WEST.
THAT IS WHY INDIA HAS REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO RULE
BY THE PEOPLE AND WHY PORTUGAL, SPAIN, AND GREECE HAVE
REJOINED THE RANKS OF EUROPE'S DEMOCRATIC NATIONS.

WE DO NOT FEAR THE CHALLENGES WHICH TEST OUR
CHOSEN FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

BUT TODAY WE NEED A NEW AGENDA FOR DEMOCRACY.

THE FIRST TASK ON THIS AGENDA IS TO DEVISE WAYS
IN WHICH GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS CAN BETTER
AND MORE QUICKLY RESPOND TO THE HIGHER STANDARDS OF
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE DEMANDED BY OUR PEOPLE.

THIS IS A TIME OF TESTING. ALREADY THE VARIED
EXPERIMENTS ARE UNDER WAY, ACCORDING TO THE UNIQUE
TRADITIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY.

IN WESTERN EUROPE, SUCCESSFUL SHARING OF THE
FRUITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY HAS
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PROVIDED A WAY TO HELP OVERCOME MOUNTING SOCIAL

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PROBLEMS.

IN FRANCE, YOU ARE MAKING A YOUNG CONSTITUTION
WORK, IN BALANCING AUTHORITY BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND
THE LEGISLATURE.

IN SOME COUNTRIES, LIKE GERMANY AND SCANDINAVIA,
THERE ARE CONTINUING EXPERIMENTS IN NEW FORMS OF
RELATIONS BETWEEN WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT.

THE MEMBER NATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ARE
PLANNING TO HOLD DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT.

IN MY OWN NATION, WE ARE TRYING TO REDUCE GOVERN-
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MENT REGULATION IN AREAS BETTER LEFT TO PRIVATE BUSINESS
OR THE INDIVIDUAL.

AND IN SOME NATIONS THERE IS EMPHASIS ON STRENGTH-
ENING THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ON DECENTRAL-
LIZING POWER, AND ON WORKING THROUGH VOLUNTARY ASSOCIA-
TIONS TO MEET PARTICULAR PROBLEMS AND NEEDS.

IN THESE AND OTHER WAYS WE CAN MAKE GOVERNMENT
MORE RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE,
FOSTERING A RENEWED SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN OUR NATIONAL
AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

WE CAN ALSO FIND NEW ANSWERS TO THE OLD PROBLEMS
OF COMBINING FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY. AS PRESIDENT
GISCARD D'ESTAING WROTE IN HIS BOOK, "TOWARDS A NEW
DEMOCRACY":

"THE PLURALISM OF POWER GUARANTEES
FREEDOM....DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS DOES NOT
RESULT IN DISORDER, BUT IN A BETTER
BALANCE OF ORDER WITHIN FREEDOM AND
RESPONSIBILITY."

THE SECOND ITEM ON THE NEW AGENDA FOR DEMOCRACY
IS THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGE.

WE MUST NOT ONLY RESTORE GROWTH, CONTROL INFLATION,
AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT.

WE MUST ALSO DEMONSTRATE THAT OUR DEMOCRATIC
ECONOMIC SYSTEM CAN ADAPT TO THE DEMANDS PLACED ON IT.
THIS MEANS PROVING AGAIN THAT WE HAVE THE DISCIPLINE TO
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PURSUE OUR FUTURE, NO LESS THAN OUR CURRENT INTERESTS,
SO THAT CONTENDING DOMESTIC GROUPS WILL NOT PRODUCE
CHAOS AND DISCORD, BUT A NEW HARMONY OF EFFORT FOR THE
COMMON GOOD.

IT MEANS INCREASING OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT
THE FRUITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH REACH ALL PARTS OF
SOCIETY, SO THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL SHARE THE BENEFITS
OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

AND IT MEANS USING OUR RESOURCES TO PROMOTE HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT -- NOT JUST GROWTH FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

OUR DEMOCRATIC ECONOMIES NOW HAVE UNPRECEDENTED
STRENGTH TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE.

WE HAVE SKILLED WORK FORCES. WE HAVE PRODUCTIVE
PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT, EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, AND THE
WILL AND MEANS TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH ONE ANOTHER
-- BOTH WITHIN NATIONS AND AMONG NATIONS.

AND, IN THE FREE MARKET, WE HAVE A MEANS OF
MATCHING PRODUCTION TO HUMAN NEEDS THAT IS SWIFTER AND
MORE SUBTLE THAN ANY COMPUTER, MORE SENSITIVE TO
SOCIETY'S REQUIREMENTS THAN ANY STATE COMMITTEE.

MY COUNTRY IS ABLE AND WILLING TO JOIN WITH ITS
PARTNERS IN BUILDING ON THAT STRENGTH, TO PUT THE
GLOBAL ECONOMY ON THE PATH TO GROWTH AND RISING
PROSPERITY.

AMERICA'S EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD MAIN-
TAINING THE STRENGTH OF THE DOLLAR, INJECTING NEW

PURCHASING POWER INTO THE ECONOMY THROUGH A MAJOR
TAX CUT, REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND BRINGING INFLATION

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UNDER CONTROL.

WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR ECONOMIC PARTNERS IN THE
GENEVA TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO REACH RAPID AGREEMENT
THAT WILL IMPROVE THE OPEN TRADING SYSTEM, EXPAND
COMMERCE, AND CREATE NEW JOBS. AND FOLLOWING THE
FRENCH EXAMPLE, WE ARE HARD AT WORK ON A COMPREHENSIVE
ENERGY PROGRAM WHICH WILL LESSEN OUR IMPORTS OF FOREIGN
OIL, REDUCE UNDUE DEPENDENCE, AND CUT THE DEFICIT IN

OUR BALANCE OF TRADE.

FRANCE AND AMERICA AND THE OTHER INDUSTRIAL
DEMOCRACIES ARE EMERGING FROM THE ECONOMIC RECES-
SION OF RECENT YEARS. SOME OF US CAN TURN OUR ATTEN-
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TION AT ONCE TO NON-INFLATIONARY GROWTH. OTHERS MUST
FIRST TAKE PAINFUL MEASURES TO REDUCE INFLATION.

AS MORE NATIONS ARE ABLE TO PURSUE HIGHER GROWTH,
OUR ECONOMIES WILL CREATE MORE JOBS. UNEMPLOYMENT WILL
GO DOWN.

CONFIDENCE IN STEADY GROWTH WILL REDUCE
PRESSURES FOR TRADE RESTRICTIONS, MAKE IT EASIER FOR
US TO ADAPT TO CHANGES WITHIN OUR SOCIETIES, HELP US
MAKE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, AND MAKE IT EASIER
FOR COUNTRIES WITH PAYMENTS SURPLUSES TO OPEN THEIR
MARKETS TO DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE.

BUT THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER ECONOMIC NEEDS
TODAY.

THE ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS THAT SERVED US WELL IN
THE PAST NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED.

WE MUST REACH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF BASIC
ECONOMIC FORCES SO THAT WE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF
SIMULTANEOUS INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

WE MUST DEVOTE MUCH GREATER EFFORT TO FURTHER
ADVANCES IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY, TO HELP ALL OUR NATIONS
COMPETE EFFECTIVELY IN TOMORROW'S MARKETS.

WE MUST DEVELOP NEW AND PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIES AND
SERVICES, SO THAT WE CAN MODERATE THE IMPACT ON OUR
PEOPLES OF CHANGE IMPOSED BY INCREASED GLOBAL COMPETIT-
ION FOR JOBS AND MARKETS.

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WE MUST SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT.
UNLESS WE DO, PART OF AN ENTIRE GENERATION COULD BE
ESTRANGED FROM OUR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

WE MUST TAKE STEPS TO AVOID EXPORTING OUR
ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES TO OTHER NATIONS, WHETHER RICH
OR POOR.

AND WE MUST USE THE TOOLS OF SHARED FREEDOM TO
INCREASE THE CHOICES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR ECONOMIC
SYSTEM. WE CAN SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL DEVEL-
OPMENT -- IN EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES,
THE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FARM AND FACTORY.

AT THE HEART OF ALL THESE EFFORTS IS CONTINUED
COOPERATION ALONG WITH OUR OTHER ECONOMIC PARTNERS IN
SUCH WAYS AS THE ECONOMIC SUMMITS FIRST PROPOSED BY
FRANCE. THIS COOPERATION SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE
INDIVIDUALITY OF EACH NATION WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT
OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING WILL RISE OR FALL TOGETHER.

THE THIRD TASK ON THE NEW AGENDA FOR DEMOCRACY
IS TO PROVIDE FOR OUR MUTUAL SECURITY.

I COME TO FRANCE TODAY RECOGNIZING THAT OUR TWO
NATIONS SHARE A BASIC COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE OUR HARD-
WON FREEDOM. WE ARE ABLE, WITH OUR ALLIES, TO KEEP
OUR FREEDOM PRECISELY BECAUSE WE ARE MILITARILY STRONG.

OUR CENTRAL SECURITY PROBLEM TODAY IS MAIN-
TAINING OUR WILL TO KEEP THE MILITARY STRENGTH WE NEED,
WHILE SEEKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A BETTER
PEACE. MILITARY POWER WITHOUT DETENTE MAY LEAD TO CON-
FLICT; BUT DETENTE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE NATO
ALLIANCE AND POPULAR SUPPORT FOR A STRONG DEFENSE.

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BOTH FRANCE AND AMERICA PROVE THAT THE
PEOPLES OF A DEMOCRACY CAN AND WILL SUPPORT THESE JOINT
GOALS OF STRENGTH AND PEACE.

THE COMMITMENT OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE TO THE SECURITY OF EUROPE IS ABSOLUTE. THERE
SHOULD BE NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL MAINTAIN IN EUROPE
WHATEVER FORCES ARE NEEDED TO MEET THAT COMMITMENT.
WE ARE ALSO THANKFUL THAT FRANCE MAINTAINS AND IMPROVES
FORCES THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR DEFENSE.

BUT WE ALSO SEE THE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND CON-
FRONTATION, TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EAST
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AND WEST, AND TO PROGRESS TOWARD ARMS CONTROL AND
DISARMAMENT.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEEK BALANCED AND MUTUAL
LIMITS ON QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DEPLOYMENT OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS; THEN SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS, LEADING
TO THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A
POTENTIAL DESTRUCTIVE FORCE AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE
WORLD.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEEK EARLY AGREEMENT ON
A COMPREHENSIVE BAN OF THE TESTING OF NUCLEAR EXPLOS-
IVES, BOTH MILITARY WEAPONS AND SO-CALLED PEACEFUL
NUCLEAR DEVICES.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEEK A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

WE WILL WORK WITH OTHER NATIONS TO ACHIEVE THE
ADVANTAGES WHICH SUCH AGREEMENTS CAN
BRING.

WHILE THE APPROACHES OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED
STATES TO THESE ISSUES MAY SOMETIMES DIFFER, OUR
DESIRE TO BUILD A MORE STABLE PEACE IS ONE AND THE
SAME. AND IN ALL THESE EFFORTS, WE WILL CONSULT AND
COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH YOU, AND WITH OTHER ALLIES
-- RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE OF EACH NATION, BUT
ALSO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS AND COMMITMENTS.

THE FOURTH TASK ON DEMOCRACY'S NEW AGENDA IS THE
EFFORT OF EUROPEANS TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE. FOR THE
GOAL YOU HAVE SET FOR YOURSELVES, WITH YOUR PARTNERS
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IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, IS NOTHING LESS THAN TO
TRANSFORM AND IMPROVE RELATIONS AMONG STATES WITH
ANCIENT TRADITIONS, UNIQUE HISTORIES, AND LEGITIMATE
PRIDE IN NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

THE UNITED STATES WILL GIVE ITS UNQUALIFIED
SUPPORT TO WHAT YOU AND YOUR PARTNERS IN THE NINE ARE
DOING TO STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN COOPERATION -- FOR WE SEE
EUROPEAN STRENGTH AND UNITY AS A BOON AND NOT AS A
THREAT TO US. THE REAL THREAT TO ALL OUR INTERESTS
WOULD BE ECONOMIC WEAKNESS AND DISUNITY.

THE FIFTH AND FINAL ITEM ON THE NEW AGENDA FOR
DEMOCRACY IS TO COOPERATE AMONG OURSELVES IN ADAPTING
TO GLOBAL CHANGE.

THE SAME FACTORS THAT LED TO OUR ECONOMIC
SUCCESSIONS OVER THE PAST TWO GENERATIONS -- SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND HEALTH, THE WILL AND WISDOM
OF INDIVIDUAL MEN AND WOMEN -- HAVE ALSO ALTERED THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AND
THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

EUROPEAN NATIONS, INDIVIDUALLY OR TOGETHER,
ALSO HAVE AN INCREASING ROLE TO PLAY BEYOND THE
CONTINENT, PARTICULARLY IN REORDERING RELATIONS BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH.

IT WAS LESS THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO THAT THE

EUROPEAN POWERS MET TO DIVIDE THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA
AMONG THEM. AND YET TODAY, COLONIALISM HAS NEARLY
ENDED.

BEFORE WORLD WAR II, 80 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S
LAND MASS AND 75 PERCENT OF ITS PEOPLE WERE UNDER
WESTERN AUTHORITY. BUT TODAY THERE ARE MORE THAN A
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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

HUNDRED NEW NATIONS, EACH WITH INSISTENT NEEDS AND
DEMANDS.

A FEW YEARS AGO, THE WEST MADE VIRTUALLY ALL THE DECISIONS ABOUT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

BUT NOW, IMPORTANT RESOURCES ARE ALSO UNDER THE CONTROL OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- AS THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS MADE CLEAR. THE COUNCILS OF ECONOMIC ACTION CAN NO LONGER BE LIMITED TO A FEW.

DURING THIS TRIP, I HAVE SEEN HOW THE DEVELOPING
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NATIONS ARE CREATING A NEW ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM, REDISTRIBUTING GLOBAL POWER, POSING NEW GLOBAL PROBLEMS, AND ASSUMING NEW RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

WE HAVE LONG UNDERSTOOD THAT GREATER INDIVIDUAL EQUALITY CAN BRING FORTH GREATER PROSPERITY IN OUR DOMESTIC SOCIETIES. NOW WE ALSO SEE HOW GREATER EQUALITY AMONG NATIONS CAN PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, INCLUDING OUR OWN. NO NATION OR EVEN A SMALL GROUP OF NATIONS CAN ANY LONGER SHAPE ITS DESTINY ALONE.

IN PROPOSING THE NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT GISCARD SPOKE OF CREATING NEW FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. WHAT HE SAID THEN STANDS AS THE WATCHWORD OF ALL OUR EFFORTS TOGETHER:

"(THIS) SHOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A VICTORY FOR SOME COUNTRIES OVER OTHERS, ACHIEVED BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TEMPORARY POWER RELATIONSHIPS. RATHER IT MUST BE A VICTORY OF MANKIND OVER ITSELF...."

SIX DAYS AGO, I LEFT THE UNITED STATES ON A TOUR WHOSE CONSTANT THEME HAS BEEN THE UNIVERSAL VITALITY OF DEMOCRACY. IN POLAND, IRAN, INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT AND NOW IN FRANCE, I HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT OUR MODERN STRUGGLE IS NOT ONLY TO ESTABLISH PEACE, BUT ALSO TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL FROM THE POWER OF THE STATE.

TOMORROW, WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, I WILL
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LEAVE PARIS TO VISIT THE BEACHES AT NORMANDY. IF THE NAMES OMAHA, UTAH, JUNO, GOLD, SWORD, WILL ALWAYS LIVE IN THE MEMORIES OF BOTH OUR PEOPLES, IT IS BECAUSE THEY REMIND US AT WHAT COST OUR LIBERTIES HAVE BEEN PURCHASED, AND WHAT A PRECIOUS HERITAGE HAS BEEN LEFT FOR US TO DEFEND.

THESE NAMES REMIND US THAT LIBERTY IS NOT SECURED WITH ONE DEFENSE, BUT MUST BE STRUGGLED FOR AGAIN -- AND AGAIN -- AND AGAIN. OUR ANCESTORS MADE THEIR DEFENSE WITH PRINCIPLES, AND WITH REVOLUTION. PEOPLE OF MY PARENTS' GENERATION, AND OF MY OWN, BORE ARMS IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM. MANY OF THEM ARE LEFT AT NORMANDY BEACH, AND AT THE THOUSAND OTHER SHRINES TO LIBERTY ACROSS THE WORLD.

THOUGH WE WILL ALWAYS BE PREPARED, WE PRAY THAT THEIR SACRIFICE IN BATTLE NEED NEVER BE REPEATED; AND WE KNOW THAT WAR NEED NOT COME AGAIN, SO LONG AS WE TRANSMIT OUR DEVOTION TO THE VALUES OF FREE PEOPLE -- STRENGTHENED AND RENEWED -- TO EACH SUCCEEDING GENERATION. END QUOTE
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